

**REMARKS**

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of December 17, 2004, in which the Examiner rejected claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the typographical error (Office Action, page 3) in claim 10. As suggested by the Examiner, claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 7. Applicant has also amended claim 7 for clarification, and added new claim 17 to further define aspects of the invention. No new matter has been added, and non-limiting examples to support the amendments can be found, for example, in Figs. 7, 13A, and 14A, and the associated discussions in the specification.

Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejection. Goodberlet (USP 6,243,348) does not disclose two edges orthogonal to each other as viewed from above. As explained in column 4, lines 32-34 of Goodberlet, “*The diameter of the hole*, or via 15, in this layer is equal preferable to the minimum diameter of the focused electron beam.” It is clear that the hole 15 is shaped like a circle viewed from above. That is, the hole 15 does not have two edges as required by claim 7.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
Application Number: 10/679,416

Our Ref: Q77786  
Art Unit: 2881

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Rabena  
John F. Rabena  
Registration No. 38,584

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
**23373**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 17, 2005